

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7733

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2302

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: FOR MASS JO SA US UR

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE TALK WITH KING

REF: AMMAN 2301

1. HAD LONG TALK WITH KING, CROWN PRINCE, AND RIFAI THIS EVENING AT THEIR REQUEST. CROWN PRINCE REPORTED ON HIS TALKS WITH SAUDIS (ENCOURAGING BUT NOT DEFINITIVE) AND MENTIONED THAT HE HAD SEEN AMBASSADOR PORTER.
2. SAUDIS APPARENTLY MADE MUCH OF MISSILE DEAL, SEEMED GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT KING GOING TO SOVIETS, AND ACCEPTED HASSAN'S REASSURANCES THAT JORDAN STILL INTERESTED IN DEAL.
3. HASSAN SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO SEE FAHD AGAIN TOMORROW. FAHD SEEMED FAVORABLE IN ALL RESPECTS AND HASSAN HAS IDEA THAT REGIONAL AIR DEFENSE CONCEPT OF SOME SORT MAY HELP SAUDIS COME ALONG.
4. KING FIRM ABOUT NEED FOR FULL SYSTEM WITH ALL OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND HIS FEELING AFTER OUR DEADLINE RUNS OUT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE LEFT BUT TO GO TO SOVIETS BUT CLEARLY NOT VERY HAPPY WITH THIS OPTION.

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5. I EXPLORED WITH RIFAI POSSIBILITY OF GETTING MORE TIME ON

DOD CONTRACTS AS A WAY TO PERMIT MORE TIME FOR EXPLORATION WITH SAUDIS. HE SEEMED FAVORABLE SINCE JORDANIAN VIEW APPEARS TO BE THAT OUR DEADLINE IS CONTROLLING FACTOR.

6. REFTTEL CONTAINS DETAILED REPORT ON OUR CONVERSATION AND SUGGESTION ON ONE POSSIBLE ASPECT OF REGIONAL AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM IDEA.

7. TOLD KING I WOULD OF COURSE REPORT FULL CONVERSATION AND SEEK WASHINGTON REACTION IN VIEW OF GROWING NERVOUSNESS HERE OVER DEADLINE.

8. JORDANIANS CONSIDER HASSANS VISIT AS BASICALLY POSITIVE BUT ARE VERY CONFUSED ABOUT WHERE THIS LEAVES THEM.

9. LAUGH OF THE EVENING FOR EVERYONE WAS SAUDIS STATEMENT TO HASSAN THAT THEY WOULD PAY ALL COSTS EXCEPT FOR FACT AMERICANS WERE INSISTING THAT US TOO MUST TAKE ON A SHARE. PICKERING

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR DEFENSE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN02302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760161-0996
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760415/aaaaamex.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 AMMAN 2301
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE TALK WITH KING
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, SA, US, UR
To: STATE JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006